

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Because of the bulk processing of slaughtered cattle and the low number of EHEC O157:H7 (10-100) necessary to infect a human, EHEC O157:H7 colonization of healthy cattle remains a serious health problem. To address this problem, research has focused on improved methods for detecting and subsequently killing EHEC O157:H7 at slaughter, altering the diet of cattle to reduce the number of intestinal EHEC O157:H7 and immunizing animals to prevent EHEC O157:H7 colonization (~~Zacek D. Animal Health and Veterinary Vaccines, Alberta Research Counsel, Edmonton, Canada, 1997~~). Recently, the recombinant production and use of EHEC O157:H7 proteins including recombinant EspA (International Publication No. WO 97/40063), recombinant TIR (International Publication No. WO 99/24576), recombinant EspB and recombinant Initimin (Li et al., Infec. Immun. (2000) 68:5090-5095) have been described. However, production and purification of recombinant proteins in amounts sufficient for use as antigens is both difficult and expensive. At the present time, there is no effective method for blocking EHEC O157:H7 colonization of cattle and other mammals and, thereby, for reducing shedding of EHEC into the environment.